

### **"Change to criminal code making it easier to stop ocean drug smuggling submersibles"**

Washington D.C. - Congressman Dan Lungren (R-CA), member of the House Judiciary Committee, announced today that the US Coast Guard has captured another Self Propelled Semi- Submersible (SPSS) drug vessel in route to the United States. Lungren's bill changed Title 18 of the US Criminal Code to allow law enforcement to prosecute individuals who operate these maritime vessels.

"It is always rewarding to see our important work on the Judiciary Committee having success in the real world. These drug cartels will stop at nothing to deliver their cancerous cargo and I have sought to equip our criminal code with the teeth it needs to prosecute these people," Lungren said.

A Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment Team (LEDET) deployed on a US Navy (USN) ship intercepted a Self Propelled Semi-Submersible (SPSS) with four Colombian nationals aboard 65 nautical miles northwest of Tumaco, CO.

"These vessels are elusive and carry tons of narcotics. They could be used to smuggle destructive weapons into our ports of entry as well. I commend the Coast Guards and the Navy for a job well done," Lungren concluded.

A Maritime Patrol Aircraft detected a 40-foot profile SPSS with four people aboard and guided the USN ship to the location. The four SPSS crew members deployed two life rafts and scuttled the SPSS before the LEDET could arrive on scene. Prosecution and disposition of the four crewmembers is pending.

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Congressman Dan Lungren serves as Ranking Member on the House Administration Committee in addition to serving on the Judiciary and Homeland Security committees